



—Fisheries Research Station

Canadian fishing vessels being unloaded in Colombo Harbour.

wishes of the receiving governments and is assisted in making its final selection of projects by continuing discussions with those governments through their representatives in Ottawa and Canadian representatives in their capitals, by the information provided by Mr. Cavell as a result of his periodic trips and by the technical advice of Canadian consulting engineers.

Conclusion:

Canadian interest in the Colombo Plan is based on several considerations. In the first place, Canada, as a member of the community of free nations, is concerned in the maintenance of political stability in this vast and important region. The people of South and Southeast Asia are at the crossroads; the direction they take will depend, in part, on the degree of sympathy and understanding and practical co-operation they find in the more industrialized and economically advanced countries of the West. These countries, including Canada, can give no more convincing proof of the values of democracy than to lend a helping hand to the Asian peoples in their own tremendous efforts

to improve their living standards. On economic grounds, too, the development of South and Southeast Asia is in Canada's long-term interests for, as one of the most important trading nations of the world, Canada is bound to benefit from the expanding world trade which will result from the increased productivity and prosperity of this large and populous area.

It was political, economic and humanitarian considerations of this kind which led Canada to join with other Commonwealth countries in launching this programme of economic development for South and Southeast Asia. *The Colombo Plan* itself, as published in October 1950 by the initiating governments, contains in its final paragraph this brief but complete summary of the motives underlying the co-operation of the sponsors:

In a world racked by schism and confusion it is doubtful whether free men can long afford to leave undeveloped and imprisoned in poverty the human resources of the countries of South and Southeast Asia which could help so greatly, not only to restore the world's prosperity, but also to redress its confusion and enrich the lives of all men everywhere.